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**ORIGINAL**

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM **RECEIVED**Investigator: Carolyn BuckPhone:

2010 JAN 29 P 1:00

Fax:Priority: Respond Within Five DaysCORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROLOpinion No. 2010 - 84559Date: 1/29/2010Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed  
N/A Not ApplicableFirst:Last:Complaint By: Patricia A.

Robinson, Ph.D.

Account Name: Patricia A. Robinson, Ph.D.Home: (000) 000-0000Street: N/AWork: (000) 000-0000City: N/ACBR: N/AState: AZ Zip: N/Ais:Utility Company: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.Division: ElectricContact Name: Lainie KeltnerContact Phone: (520) 515-3440Nature of Complaint:

1/29/10\*\*\*\*\*REFERRED FROM CHAIRMAN MAYES' OFFICE\*\*\*\*\*

REFERENCE: Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc No. E-01575A-08-0328

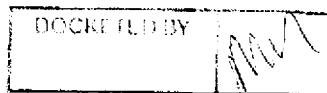
CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - OPINION OPPOSED

August 7, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Docket Control  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 29 2010

RE: ACC Docket No. E-0157A-08-0328



Dear Commissioners:

I am writing with regard to the proposed 69kV electrical line to enhance the electrical service to Sonoita. There is no question that Sonoita is in need of improved power capacity and reliability. Power outages are frequent, especially during the summer monsoon season. My most memorable one was when I returned from a 12-hour stint fighting a wildland fire in the San Raphael valley, hot, tired, and covered in soot, only to find that power was out to all of Sonoita-meaning no hot shower until we had electricity to run the pump.

My concern is the manner in which SSVEC proposes to provide that needed service improvement-by running a 69kV power line along the edge of the Babacomari Ranch. It is my understanding that this power would cost in excess of \$13 million, and that there may be lower-cost alternatives available that would do the job without the drawbacks connected with the current design. These drawbacks include, among others, these:

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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1. The project is not in accord with the Santa Cruz Comprehensive Plan. What's the point of doing comprehensive planning if we're not going to follow it?

2. The project uses outdated technology-above-ground lines carrying power from coal-fired generators. With today's concern about carbon emissions and the presence of proven alternatives, such as wind generation, why not go green-especially when there is evidence that these alternatives might cost much less? This is an especially good time to consider renewable energy options when there is Federal stimulus money that would reduce the effective cost even further.

In fact, my partner and I just signed a contract to install solar panels on the roof of our home in Sonoita to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel (propane, in this case). I'm temporarily living in Wisconsin because of a job, but in two or three years until I return to Sonoita, the improvement will pay for itself. After that, it will keep on saving us money by using renewable energy. Why wouldn't SSVEC want to do the same?

3. The project would probably damage the efforts of the Research Ranch, a unique research facility, by temporary and permanent disruptions of the ecosystem, providing an invitation to invasive species that could threaten the work being done there-including very long-term longitudinal studies of grassland ecosystems. It is my understanding that no environmental impact study has been made available-why not?

These are just a few of the many reasons that I believe an independent feasibility study comparing SSVEC's proposed design to alternative that have been developed is essential.

SSVEC has been remarkably closed to discussion of any alternatives, despite significant community opposition to its current design. This seems very strange to me-if it appears that an alternative is available that would make the community happy and cost less, why would you not want to investigate it? Or if you had already done so, and concluded that alternative designs would not work, why not make those results public?

As a retired police officer, that makes me a little suspicious.

For all these reasons, I ask that the Commission deny SSVEC's request for a rate increase until an independent feasibility study is conducted.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia A. Robinson, Ph.D.  
Executive Dean - Criminal Justice Division  
Fox Valley Technical College  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
\*End of Complaint\*

### Utilities' Response:

### Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

1/29/10 Comments entered for the record and docketed in Docket No. E-01575A-08-0328

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed:

Opinion No. 2010 - 84559

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